

HOUSE BILL NO. 334

INTRODUCED BY T. BELCOURT

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE MONTANA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN FOR THE PURPOSES OF SAWFLY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF SAWFLY-RESISTANT WHEAT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, wheat is an important crop to the Montana economy and the livelihood of many Montana farmers; and

WHEREAS, the sawfly is the most destructive agricultural pest in Montana; and

WHEREAS, the sawfly causes nearly \$100 million in crop losses each year; and

WHEREAS, scientific researchers could study sawfly resistance in oats, Old World durum wheat, and wheat grasses and develop the resistance in wheat; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station at Montana State University-Bozeman does not currently have the capability to perform this research; and

WHEREAS, hiring a molecular biologist (geneticist) would give the experiment station the capability to perform this research; and

WHEREAS, wheat growers of Montana have raised \$200,000 to help match an appropriation by the Legislature for a molecular biologist (geneticist) position at the experiment station.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation. There is appropriated \$200,000 for fiscal year 2010 and \$200,000 for fiscal year 2011 from the general fund to the Montana agricultural experiment station at Montana state university-Bozeman to be used only for the purpose of hiring a tenure track molecular biologist (geneticist) to isolate sawfly-resistant traits or genes in certain crops and develop new traits of sawfly resistance in wheat.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2009.

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